criterion for conferment of B2 status. It also did not fulfil the other criterion of comparison with the costliness of other B2 Class cities in the zone in which the city is located. The Government of Pondicherry was informed of the decision.

Gangotri mission on Antarctica

451. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the achievements of Gangotri Mission on Antarctica;

(b) what is the latest mission in which it is engaged at present; and

(c) how far the country is benefited by this mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) In Antarctica India has been able to establish a permanent station, Dakshin Gangotri, equipped wtih all necessary living and working facilities. India has been able to collect scientific information on geology, glaciology, meteorology, oceanography and biology of polar region. We have set up communication facilities through HF and satellite links between Dakshin Gangotri and India.

(b) The fifth expedition is at present in Antarctica. The scientific works in the field of biology, geology, glaciology and meteorology are being continued The expedition is also engaged in locating a site for the construction of an alternate building.

(c) Several benefits have accrued to India by virtue of Antarctic expeditions. India has been admitted as a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty and a full member of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. Our country has been able to exchange information between the Antarctic Treaty members and members of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. India has been able to develop a team of persons fully acclaimatised for the extreme cold conditions. India has also acquired expertise in operating vehicles, navigating in cold and unknown terrains and in developing a variety of equipment ideally suited for Antarctic conditions.

Submission of draft of extradition treaty to U.K.

452. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the legal aspects of the U. K. offer to extend the provision of U. K. Suppression of Terrorism Act to India to deal effectively with the problem of terrorism;

(b) whether Government have also presented a draft of an extradition treaty to the U. K. Government to enable it to obtain extradition of terrorists from that country who have committed offences in India; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of U.K. Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) The response of the U. K. Government is awaited.

Differences between India and US on the memorandum of understanding

453. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state·

(a) whether differences between India and U. S. have cropped up on interpretation of memorandum of understanding on transfer of new technology to India signed between the two countries sometime back;

(b) whether it is a fact that US ha refused to give licence for export of super computer to be used in India in various fields; and

(c) if so, what are the details of such differences?